

Atty. Docket No. CH9-1998-0027US1
(590.052)

REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. The Office is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection present in the outstanding Office Action in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-11 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. Of these claims, Claims 1 and 10 are independent claims; the remaining claims are dependent claims. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include allowable subject matter, as deemed in the outstanding Office Action. Claims 4 and 11 have been cancelled. Applicants intend no change in the scope of the claims by the changes made by these amendments. It should also be noted these amendments are not in acquiescence of the Office's position on allowability of the claims, but merely to expedite prosecution.

Claim 11 has been objected to as being incomplete, and thus not considered on the merits. Claim 11 has been cancelled, and the subject matter of the claim included in a base claim. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is also respectfully requested.

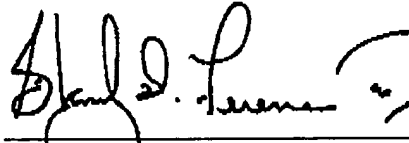
Applicants acknowledge that Claims 4, 6, and 9 were indicated by the Examiner as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. The independent claims were amended to include allowable subject matter. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1 and 10 fully distinguish over the applied art and are

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thus allowable. By virtue of dependence from Claims 1 and 10, it is thus also submitted that Claims 2, 3, and 5-9 are also allowable at this juncture.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1-3 and 5-10, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is hereby earnestly solicited. If there are any further issues in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Stanley D. Ference III
Registration No. 33,879

Customer No. 35195
FERENCE & ASSOCIATES
409 Broad Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15143
(412) 741-8400
(412) 741-9292 - Facsimile

Attorneys for Applicants